

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A decorating medium for creating relief art on a substrate surface, the medium comprising:

- a. a water-based emulsion body; and
- b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein, wherein the medium is cured and expanded when heated after application to the substrate surface; and
- c. a preservative selected from the group consisting of Hydroxyalkyl-1-aza-3,7-dioxabicyclo(3.3.0) octane, Tetrachlorisophthalonitrile 1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-one, and Phenoxyethanol.

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Claim 2 (original): The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the water-based emulsion body comprises an acrylic binder and an acrylic thickener.

Claim 3 (original): The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic binder is selected from the group consisting of Vinyl Acetate-Ethylene Polymer, Vinyl Acetate-Vinyl Chloride-Ethylene Terpolymer and a Vinyl-Acrylic Polymer.

Claim 4 (original): The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic binder is in the range of 25 to 95 percent of the total weight of the decorating medium.

Claim 5 (original): The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the thickener is pH sensitive and that causes viscosity of the decorating medium to increase to a range of 3,000 to 25,000 centipoise and in a pH range of 7.0 to 9.0.

Claim 6 (original): The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic thickener is in a range of 0.5 to 10 % percent of the weight of the decorating medium.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The decorating medium of claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the preservative is in the range of 0.005 to 0.50 percent of total weight of the medium.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (original): The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the expandable polymer is a Polyvinylidene Chloride polymer encapsulating an alkane blowing agent.

Claim 10 (original): The decorating medium of claim 9, wherein the blowing agent is Isobutane.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A system for decorating surfaces, the system comprising:

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- a. a water based heat curable and expandable medium; ~~and~~
  - b. a water compatible decorating additive for mixing with the heat curable and expandable medium; and
  - c. a preservative selected from the group consisting of Hydroxyalkyl-1-aza-3,7-dioxabicyclo(3.3.0) octane, Tetrachlorisophthalonitrile 1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-one, Phenoxyethanol.

Claim 12 (original): The system of claim 11, wherein the decorating additive is a coloring agent selected from the group consisting of ink, dye, food coloring, acrylic paint, finger paint and tempera paint.

Claim 13 (original): The system of claim 11, wherein the water based heat curable and expandable medium comprises:

- a. an emulsion body comprising an acrylic binder and an acrylic thickener or a cellulosic thickener; and
- b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein, wherein the medium is cured and expanded when heated to temperatures below 140 Celsius.

Claim 14 (original): The system of claim 13, wherein the acrylic binder is selected from the group consisting of Vinyl Acetate-Ethylene Polymer, Vinyl Acetate-Vinyl Chloride-Ethylene Terpolymer and Vinyl-Acrylic Polymer.

Claim 15 (original): The system of claim 13, wherein the acrylic binder is in the range of 25 to 95 percent of the total weight of the medium.

Claim 16 (original): The system of claim 13, wherein the thickener is pH sensitive and that causes the viscosity of the decorating medium to increase to a range of 3,000 to 25,000 centipoise and in a pH range of 7.0 to 9.0.

Claim 17 (original): The system of claim 14, wherein the thickener is in a range of 0.5 to 10 percent of the weight of the medium.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The system of claim 11, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the preservative is in the range of 0.005 to 0.50 percent of the total weight of the medium.

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Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (original): The system of claim 13, wherein the expandable polymer is a Polyvinylidene Chloride polymer emulsulating an alkane blowing agent.

Claim 21 (original): The system of claim 20, wherein the blowing agent is Isobutane.

Claims 22-39 (canceled).

Claim 40 (new): A liquid decorating medium for creating relief art on a substrate surface, the liquid decorating medium comprising:

- a. a water-based emulsion body; and
- b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein,  
wherein the liquid decorating medium is capable of being applied directly onto the substrate surface in a pattern and subsequently cured to form a relief of the pattern.

Claim 41 (new): A system for decorating surfaces, the system comprising:

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- a. a liquid decorating medium comprising:
    - i. a water based heat curable and expandable medium; and
    - ii. a water compatible decorating additive for mixing with the heat curable and expandable medium; and
  - b. a liquid dispenser for dispensing the liquid decorating medium directly onto the surfaces.
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